

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29-32, 50-60, 78, 80-87, 89-97, and 101-119 are now pending in the present application, claims 61-77 and 79 having been cancelled by the present amendment. No new matter has been added.

First, the Applicants thank the Examiner for declaring that claims 1, 3-10, 12-16, 21, 22, 26, 27, 29-32, 50-60, 78, 80-87, 89-97, and 101-119 are allowable.

In the Office Action mailed June 26, 2003, the Examiner required cancellation of claims 61-67 and 79 as drawn to a non-elected invention. The undersigned telephoned the Examiner on August 21, 2003 to clarify Applicant's understanding that the withdrawn claims that should be cancelled are in fact claims 61-77 and 79. The Examiner confirmed Applicant's understanding. Thus, claims 61-77 and 79 are cancelled by the present amendment. In view of this amendment, the Applicants respectfully request allowance of all remaining claims.

As an additional matter, the Applicants submit herewith a form PTO-1449; copies of the references listed on the form are enclosed. Also attached is a copy of the Form 1449 submitted on August 20, 1999, for which the Applicants have yet to receive an initialed copy. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the references listed on each form, to initial the forms 1449, and return a copy to the Applicants.

The Applicants also wish to bring the following co-pending patent applications and issued patents to the Examiner's attention, all of which are assigned of record to the assignee of the present application:

U.S. Patent No. 6,534,557
U.S. Application Serial No. 08/601,005
U.S. Application Serial No. 08/736,267
U.S. Application Serial No. 10/401,181
U.S. Application Serial No. 10/401,157
U.S. Application Serial No. 10/224,522


Applicant : Kjell G.E. Bäckström et al.
Serial No. : 08/736,267
Filed : October 24, 1996
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Attorney's Docket No.: 06275-004001 / D 1271-7 US

The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after a first Office action on the merits, but before receipt of a final Office action or a Notice of Allowance. A check for \$180 in payment of the late submission fee of §1.17(p) is enclosed. Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 06275-004001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 8/25/03



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